TUGS FORMAT SUGGESTIONS

Requirement;

Television half hour with option of three television ten minute segments edited from thirty minute material.

Suggested Scripting Options:

1. One main story for 30 minutes with sub-plots to involve the majority of main characters. Main plot line constructed as beginning, middle and end sequences thus enabling 10 minute programmes to be edited out. These sequences will be complete within themselves. All main characters will be included within each episode by using concurrent sub-plots.

Example Treatment.

Beginning

The large tugs go out of the bay to tow a very large Liner back into its dock (this will show the techniques involved in getting lines onto a Liner)
Meanwhile, because the docks are very busy and Ten Cents is being 'rushed off his feet' with smaller jobs, a second independent tug called Sunshine is hired by Captain Starr to help out. Sunshine moans continually to Ten Cents that he has always wanted to go out to a Liner but Ten Cents tells him the advantages of being a Switcher.
The larger tugs bring the Liner into dock (this will show the techniques of turning a liner). Ten Cents and Sunshine watch the manoeuvres as they work nearby. Night falls and the Switchers work late. By the time they finish it is well after midnight and Ten Cents kindly offers to share his berth with Sunshine.

Middle

With the first light of day the dispatcher wakes Big Mac who has to tow a very important barge full of supplies up river. A second Liner is due at midday and Big Mac has not returned. As the Liners cannot be kept waiting, the dispatcher calls Ten Cents and the independent Sunshine back from their harbour job ordering them to go out and help the others to tow in the Liner. Both Switchers are overjoyed and race each other out to the Liner.
As they approach the Liner, Ten Cents slows down but Sunshine excited by their race and the task infront of them continues at speed. The other tugs shout a warning but it is too late, Sunshine runs into the side of the Liner buckling a plate.
The Liner and the other tugs are very angry, Sunshine is so ashamed that he steams away, leaving Ten Cents to help the other Tugs. Ten Cents has to use all his strength to balance the others pull. Just as he is about to burst his boiler Big Mac arrives and throws him a line, Ten Cents relaxes as his powerful friend takes the strain.

Back in their dock the tugs are still very angry at Sunshine's actions. While the exhausted Ten Cents sleeps the other tugs plan to punish Sunshine.
Late in the afternoon the tugs with the exception of Ten Cents gather round Sunshine.
All at once they turn on their hoses and a cloud of pink paint envelopes Sunshine. As the cloud clears we see that Sunshine is covered in the pink paint.
The tugs steam away leaving behind a very embarrassed and sad Sunshine in his dock for all to see. Other boats tease him as they pass.
As darkness falls Sunshine decides that he can no longer take the shame and opens his sea cocks.
Slowly Sunshine sinks beneath the surface.

End

Bright and early Ten Cents, now fully recovered steams over to get his friend.
Not realising what has happened Ten Cents looks around in vain for Sunshine.
He sees a pink shadow in the water but does not recognise it.
Worried about his friend, Ten Cents goes about his work. During the day Top Hat sees Ten Cents struggling and feels guilty. Top Hat later in the day meets the other tugs and they decide to tell Ten Cents about painting Sunshine pink.
When Ten Cents hears the news he suddenly realises what the pink shadow is.
He calls the others to follow him to Sunshine's dock.
Sure enough they can just see Sunshine below the surface. Ten Cents is angry at the others and steams away. The other tugs feel very guilty and they bring in a floating crane and a diver to attach the lines.
Calling Ten Cents back to the dock later in the afternoon, the tugs watch as Sunshine is brought to the surface. The tugs apologise to Sunshine who tells them that he has learnt his lesson and will work harder to amend his disgrace.
Ten Cents is so pleased to have his friend back, but Sunshines owner says that 'Sunshine may as well have stayed on the seabed as he is a disgrace to his Company'.
Ten Cents tells Captain Starr the whole story. To make Ten Cents happy, and to get another Switcher, which he needs, Captain Starr buys Sunshine.
Ten Cents is overjoyed that his friend is joining the STARR TUGS.